7966. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(b) whether India and Tego have signed any pacts for cooperation in various areas; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) During the recent visit to India in September 1994 by General Chassingbe Eya dema, President of Tego, India has offered cooperation with that country in an integrated rural development project in Tego. The matter is under action consideration of the two Governments. However, so far, no specified Agreement for Cooperation has been signed in the regard.

International Conference on Kashmir in Nepal

7967. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any International conference on Kashmir was organised in Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with Nepal; and

(d) if so, the response of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Expending the formation of Regional Passport Office at Nagpur

7968. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the functions of the Regional Passport Office at Nagpur;

(b) if so, what are the plans in this regard;

(c) if not, how the office would be able to cater to the huge load in it;

(d) whether the required emigration authorities would also be posted in the said office;

(e) whether it is a fact that during the last five years a number of passport officers at Nagpur have changed since no one wants to stay there beyond the required time; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to sort out this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The functions of the Passport Offices are well defined and specified. These are: issue of passports and rendering of other services relating to passports and other travel documents. No expansion of functions is, thus, called for.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In 1993 and 1994 Passport Office, Nagpur received 12,934 and 10,118 applications for fresh passports and 3,548 and 3,420 applications for miscellaneous services respectively. This is a comparatively small input. Against this, Nagpur issued 12,890 and 9,755 passports and rendered 3,454 and 3,373 miscellaneous services during 1993 and 1994 respectively.

(d) There is no requirment for posting an emigration authority at the Passport Office.

(e) During the past five years, Shri J. R. Ambre held charge of Acting Passport Office from 26-11-90 to 26-7-94 and Shri A.R. Sarkar from 26-8-94 till date.

(f) Does not arise.